

How can x rays affect my kidneys?

X rays that use a special dye—known as contrast medium—to give a better picture of your organs can pose a risk to your kidneys. Contrast medium that is injected into your blood vessels is the type that can cause kidney damage. If you need x rays with contrast medium injected into your blood vessels, your doctor can give you extra fluids and medicine before and after the x rays to protect your kidneys. Or, your doctor may decide to order a test that does not use contrast medium.

What is kidney failure?

Kidney failure, also called end-stage kidney disease or ESRD, means your kidneys no longer work well enough to do their job. You will need treatment to replace the work your kidneys have stopped doing.